

FREE

Winter 2007

Gateway *to Canyon Country*



**Wupatki... look at how the
early residents lived**

**Monument Valley...
reminder of the wild west**

**Spencer Trail... a rewarding
view ends the grueling hike**

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Cool stuff awaits winter visitors to Grand Circle!



The states of Arizona, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico meet in the middle at Four Corners National Monument. (File photo/Gateway to Canyon Country)

It's winter in Canyon Country and the Grand Circle of National Parks, and that means chilly weather and snowy mountain peaks in the high country, and cool but calm weather in the Lake Powell region. This is a perfect time for hiking and other outdoor pursuits in northern Arizona and southern Utah, because the crowds have gone, and peace and serenity abound.

In this issue of *Gateway to Canyon Country*, you will read about some terrific hiking and sightseeing opportunities around the Grand Circle and right here at Page-Lake Powell. We hope you will use this magazine and the information it provides to enhance your enjoyment of one of America's most scenic regions.

The hikes and activities outlined in *Gateway to Canyon Country* are to be undertaken at the visitor's own risk. Factors such as temperature, distance, precipitation, elevation, and wind, as

well as the participant's own health, stamina and physical preparedness, help determine the difficulty level of any activity.

Visitors should always check weather reports prior to any excursion, and they should never leave for any hike without plenty of water, a map, proper footwear, a walking stick for added balance on the trail, and some knowledge of where they are going and how to get back. Longer hikes should also include food, a spare set of clothes appropriate for the locale, and any other items necessary to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Visitors should not feed, pet or approach wild animals, not even cute ones that beg for handouts. And hikers always should consider the potential for flash floods.

Gateway to Canyon Country encourages every visitor to enjoy the Grand Circle area safely and responsibly. Thanks for visiting, and please come again!

— From the staff



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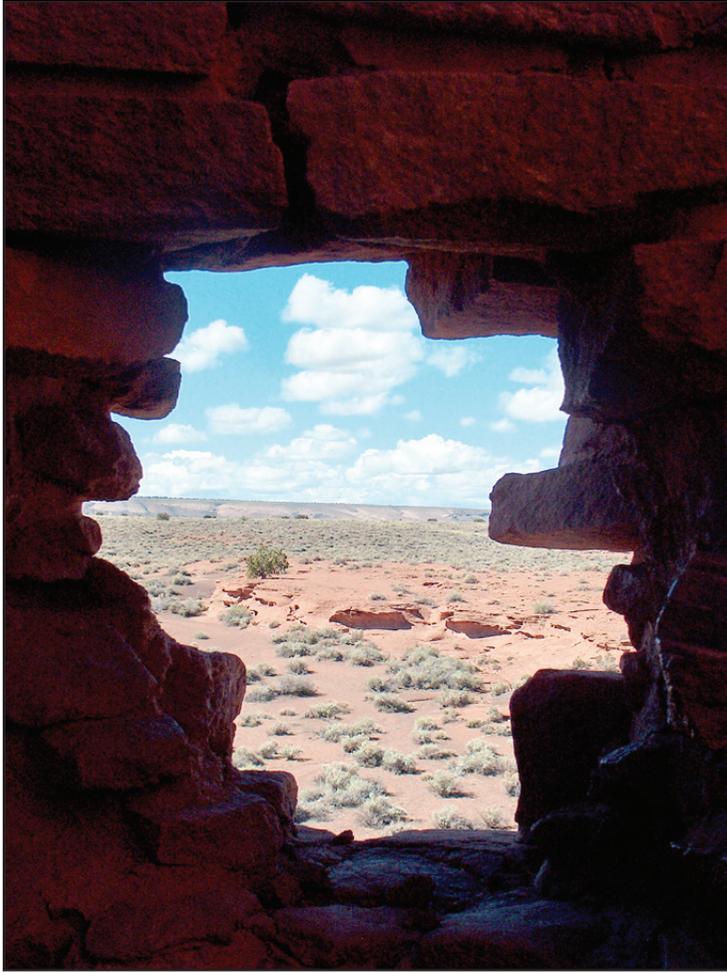
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A peek through a window in the Wukoki Ruins at Wupatki National Monument loosely frames a beautiful view of the hills just north of Flagstaff. It can be difficult for even average people to enter some of the rooms in the Wukoki Ruins, so care should be taken (Photo by Lee Pulaski/Gateway to Canyon Country)



Anyone who hikes on the Spencer Trail near Lees Ferry will be treated to this wonderful view of the Colorado River. Sometimes fishermen can be seen motoring up the river in search of food. (File photo/Gateway to Canyon Country)

(Cover photo) If the Anasazi still inhabited the Wukoki Pueblo, there would be a lot of houseguests to contend with. The Wupatki National Monument is open every day from dawn to dusk except for Christmas Day. (Photo by Lee Pulaski/Gateway to Canyon Country)

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Wupatki gives peek into early Indians' lives

6 Almost 1,000 years ago, the Anasazi and Sinagua people lived in pueblos just north of Flagstaff. Visitors to the Wupatki National Monument can find out how these people lived, but they may leave with more questions than answers.

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Navajo monuments beautiful in open valley

14 Monument Valley was a favorite site for the filming of many American westerns. Now, visitors can enjoy the beauty that the Hollywood elite enjoyed so many years ago.

Valley in Utah speckled with pedestal rocks

16 Toadstool Valley may not have its own park named after it, but anyone who goes to see the array of pedestal rocks in the Grand-Staircase Escalante will still feel the park experience.

Challenge yourself on Spencer Trail

18 Spencer Trail provides one of the best hikes in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the breathtaking view at the top is well worth the grueling ascent.

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Publisher: Sue Shinneman

Editor: Lee Pulaski

Writers: Lee Pulaski and J. Ivan Franceschi

Advertising: Ed Pease

Circulation: Tammy Tichinel

Composition: Marty Sisk

PLENTY OF THINGS TO SEE IN, NEAR PAGE

It is my pleasure to welcome you to beautiful Page, Arizona! I'm sure you'll find your visit to our city and to Lake Powell memorable. There is much to do in our area.

Discover something new in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; water ski, kayak or houseboat on Lake Powell; photograph the colorful Antelope Canyon; marvel at the immense Horseshoe Bend; bike the Page Rimview Trail; golf the four-star Lake Powell National Golf Course; tour Glen Canyon Dam; raft the Colorado River; learn about Diné culture at the Navajo Village Heritage Center; check out river history at the John Wesley Powell Museum; shop at a local trading post; fly over the incredible landscape of Monument Valley; fish for rainbow trout or largemouth bass; or savor a Navajo taco at one of our many



events held during the year.

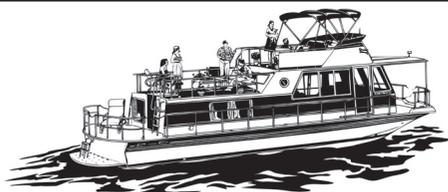
As the hub of the Grand Circle, Page can be your home base for making day trips to Zion, Bryce, Mesa Verde, or Grand Canyon National Parks, or to see Rainbow Bridge, the Grand Staircase-Escalante, Cedar Breaks, Wupatki-Sunset Crater, Canyon de Chelly, or Navajo National Monuments. There is also a variety of Arizona, Utah and Colorado state parks within just a few hours' drive of Page. There is so much to see and do that I encourage you to stay another day and enjoy our unique part of the world.

Feel free to contact me or the friendly staff at the Page Tourism Bureau if you need some assistance in deciding what to do. We are located on Elm Street. Look for the blue signs or call us at (928) 660-3405 or (888) 261-PAGE. Enjoy your time here in Page. Thank you for visiting.

— Dwayne Cassidy, Page Tourism Coordinator



A view of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, taken on Bright Angel Trail, shows the contrasting red and sand-like colors found throughout the canyon, which also includes plenty of shrubs and foliage. (Photo by J. Ivan Franceschi/Gateway to Canyon Country)



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Wupatki National Monument will leave your vacation

IN RUINS

Monument provides a glimpse into how the Anasazi and Sinagua people lived almost a millennium ago

Story and photos by Lee Pulaski • Gateway to Canyon Country

There are many places in Arizona and Utah that have been left to the elements, providing insights into the mystery of some of the indigenous people who lived in the region thousands of years ago. The Wupatki National Monument, just a little off the beaten path between Page and Flagstaff, provides enough ruins to serve as an archaeologist's dream come true.

The monument was established in 1924 with the help of Harold S. Colton, who also helped to found the Museum of Northern Arizona. There are six pueblos that make up the monument, each providing a glimpse into the people who once called them home and have long since departed.

Bepreparedforvariableand extreme weather conditions, depending on the time of year. Most of the afternoons can be windy. The mercury can creep up past 100 degrees in the summer months. Monsoon thunderstorms in the afternoon are common from July through September.

Autumn and spring days are warm and mild while winter days are cool with occasional snow & freezing temperatures.

Due to its lower elevation, Wupatki is usually 10 to 20 degrees warmer than Flagstaff or the other Flagstaff area national monuments like Sunset Crater Volcano and Walnut Canyon. The temperature is around the same as Page, but visitors should always check on the weather conditions before coming.

The first stop on the road coming from Flagstaff (or the last if you're coming from Page) is the Wukoki Pueblo. In the Hopi language "Wukoki" stands for "big house." Just standing in the parking area several hundred feet from the pueblo, it is easy to see why it was named that way. The Anasazi used the pueblo in the 12th and 13th centuries, primarily the Kayenta offshoot of the Anasazi people. There are numerous pottery shards in and around the pueblo, preserved there for the people to see but not to touch. These areas are clearly

marked with signs that say "Fragile: Do Not Touch."

The Wukoki Pueblo is three stories high, which is rather unusual. Most pueblos in the area only stand one story in height. The pueblo sits on top of Moencopi sandstone. The pueblo provides easy views in every direction, which might explain why the Anasazi and Sinagua chose the location. Hikers who walk down the path that leads around the building can get many unique perspectives of the pueblo.

There are only three rooms in the pueblo that can be seen by visitors. There is a plaza area on the south side that is believed to have been used as a meeting place, as well as for daily activities like preparing food and making pottery. It is also suspected that children used this area for play. The other rooms are small in size, with entrances that can be difficult for even an average-sized person to go through.

Next is the Wupatki Pueblo, which is behind the visitor center for the park. For a small fee, you can get a map of some of the notable sights around this pueblo from the

visitor center, which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except for Christmas. The trip around this pueblo, the largest of the six, is about one-half mile in length, and you need approximately 45 minutes to fully enjoy some of the features.

There are black cinders along the ground that are believed to have been left there from volcanic eruptions from the nearby Sunset Crater. The ash has helped to preserve soil moisture in this arid environment, believed to have made conditions excellent for farming.

Along the path, visitors will see what looks to be like some ancient sports arena. The ball court is believed to have been used to play a game similar to today's hockey, where the people moved a ball toward some goal using curved sticks. It was apparently built in the same design as some of the courts that can be seen in southern Arizona and were built by Mexican native tribes. There are 200 of these kinds of ball courts in the state, but

(Continued on page 8)

(Next page) It is easier to traverse around the ruins of the Lomaki Pueblo than around the Wukoki Pueblo, one of the larger ones in the Wupatki National Monument. This passage leads to the community room, an open area commonly used by the people who lived here from dawn to dusk in the warmer months and less frequently during cooler weather.



(Continued from page 6)

this one is the only one that has been found in northern Arizona.

Another treat that folks who visit the Wupatki Pueblo will find is a natural “blowhole.” The blowhole is believed to have formed naturally from a crevice in the earth’s crust. When the air above the ground is warmer than the air underground, the blowhole blows out. When the air is cooler above ground, it blows in. The breathing effect can be quite dramatic because of the size of the hole, depending on what the

barometric pressure is.

It appears to breathe and was created from earthquakes in the Kaibab area hundreds of years ago that opened up cracks in the limestone bedrock; over time, these cracks have grown bigger. When visitors approach the hole, it acts almost as though you’re driving along the road with the window down. It is unclear if the blowhole had any use for the people who lived there, and archaeologists to this day cannot ascertain as to whether it was used for anything.

The next two pueblos are fairly close together. The

Nalakihu Pueblo doesn’t have much left to see, only the foundation and some steps. It is believed that some parts of the pueblo were two stories high. It is believed to have been lived in between 1150 and 1200 just like the Citadel Pueblo just up the path. Nearby spots appear to have been used to grow corn, cotton, beans and squash. Those areas were made as terraces, designed to catch falling rain and funnel it into the garden area to help the crops to grow. There is also a rock circle that appears to have ruins of some kind, although researchers are

uncertain about its origins.

The Citadel Pueblo is located on top of a hill, and it was common for the Anasazi to build their homes in higher locations. Modern culture traditionally builds on hilltops for easy access to beautiful, dramatic landscapes, which makes one wonder if the Anasazi built on hills for the same reason. There is a sinkhole near the pueblo caused by natural depressions in the earth over time. The pueblo is near the San Francisco Peaks, considered sacred by many Native American cultures, including the Hopi. The sinkhole is



The Wupatki Pueblo is the largest one out of six in Wupatki National Monument. There are so many different features in and around the pueblo that a map is almost essential to catch them all. Two notable features near this pueblo is a blowhole that the Hopi call the “yaaponcsa” or the breath of the wind spirit, as well as an ancient ball court similar to the Mexican ruins in southern Arizona.



(Above) A rock formation from the Wupatki Pueblo appears to have more holes in it than swiss cheese. The grains in this sandstone are cemented with calcite which dissolves with rain water. Weathering pits form, which collect more water, enlarging the pits. The dissolved calcite moves downward into any porous rock or soil. Concentrations build, then moisture creates capillary action which draws the solution to the surface where it precipitates out, creating the white deposits on soil and rocks.

considered to be sacred by the Hopi, as well. There is not much left of this pueblo, either — just a few walls and some pottery shards.

The last two ruins are also close together: The Lomaki Ruins and the Box Canyon Ruins. Lomaki is located next to another earth crack, and an open room in the ruins is believed to have been used as a community area. That room is believed to have been used from dawn to dusk during the warmer months.

The Box Canyon Ruins is located next to a canyon that was believed to have been used, like many other areas, for farming. The Anasazi did a lot of dry-land farming. The ruin is similar to a lot of pueblos in the region, with flat roofs made from timber, covered with branches and plastered with mud. It is believed that, once the inhabitants abandoned the site, parts were scavenged to be used on other pueblos in the area.

Hikers should stay on established trails and should

avoid looking around if the area has experienced any heavy storms prior to their arrival. No pets are allowed around the ruins, and climbing any of the walls is prohibited. The park is open from sunrise to sunset.

Visitors should give themselves several hours to fully appreciate and enjoy the park, and they can make a day out of it by visiting nearby Sunset Crater and Walnut Canyon. Take along plenty of water for the hike, but the paths are relatively easy to walk along and shouldn't cause too much exertion.

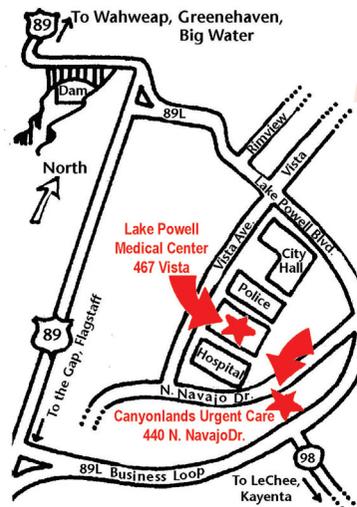
The fee is \$5 to get into Wupatki National Monument, and the pass is good for seven days. To get to the park from Flagstaff, take US 89 north for 12 miles, turn right at the sign for Sunset Crater Volcano/Wupatki National Monuments. The visitor center is 21 miles from this junction. From Page, take U.S. 89 for 100 miles and turn left at the north sign for the monument. The visitor center is 15 miles from this junction.



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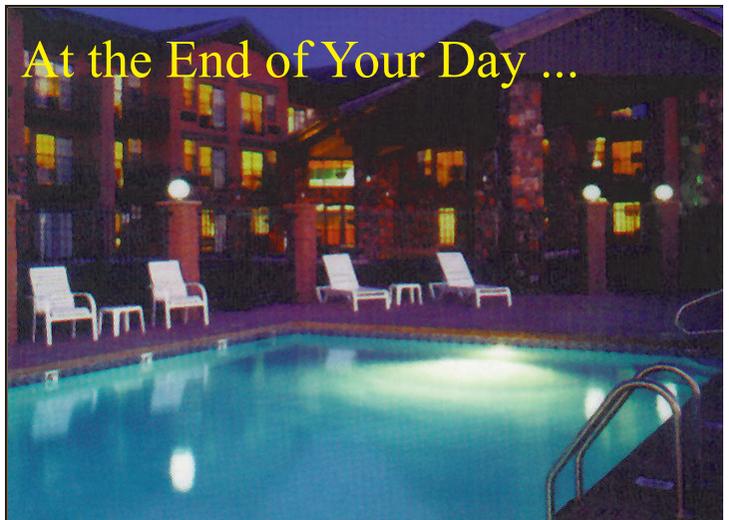
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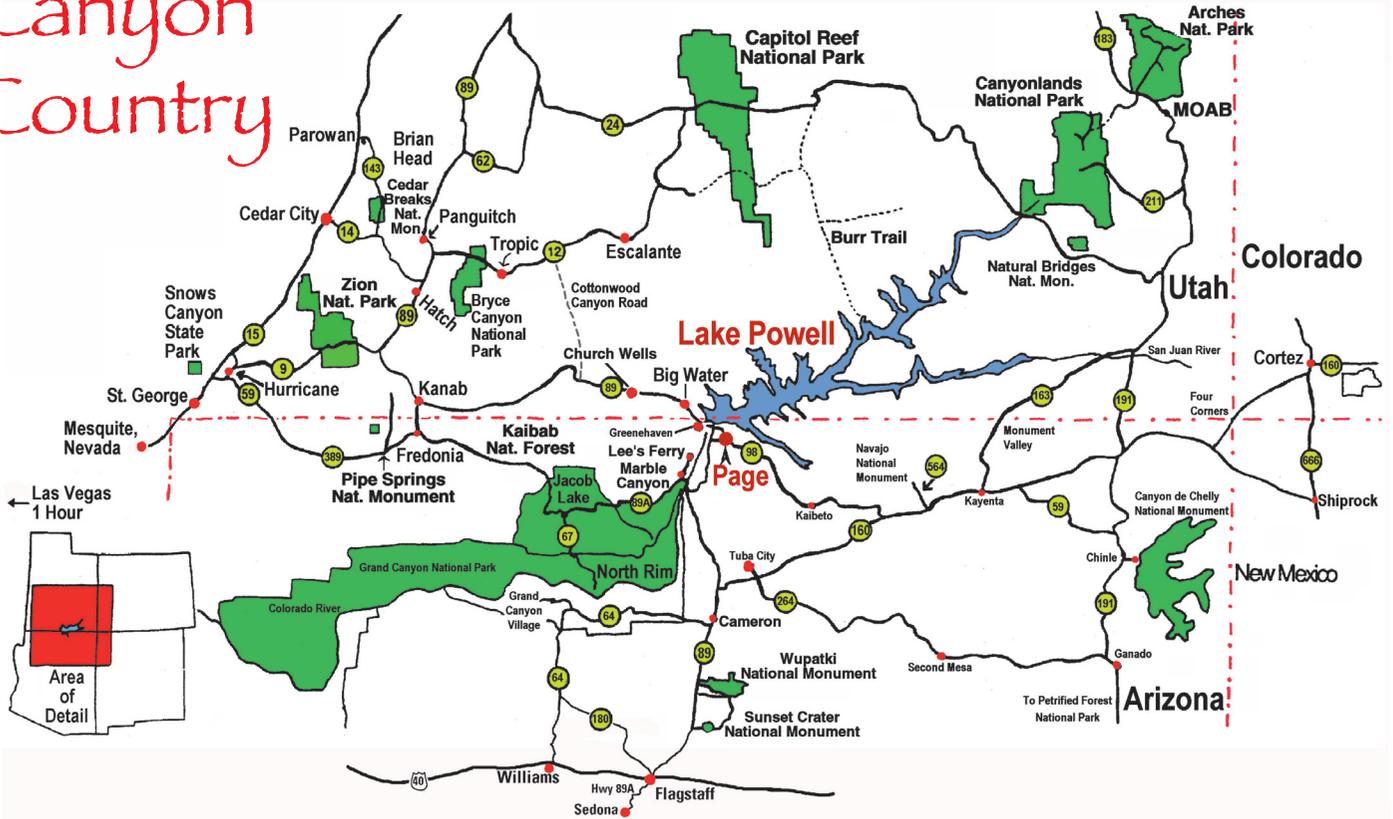
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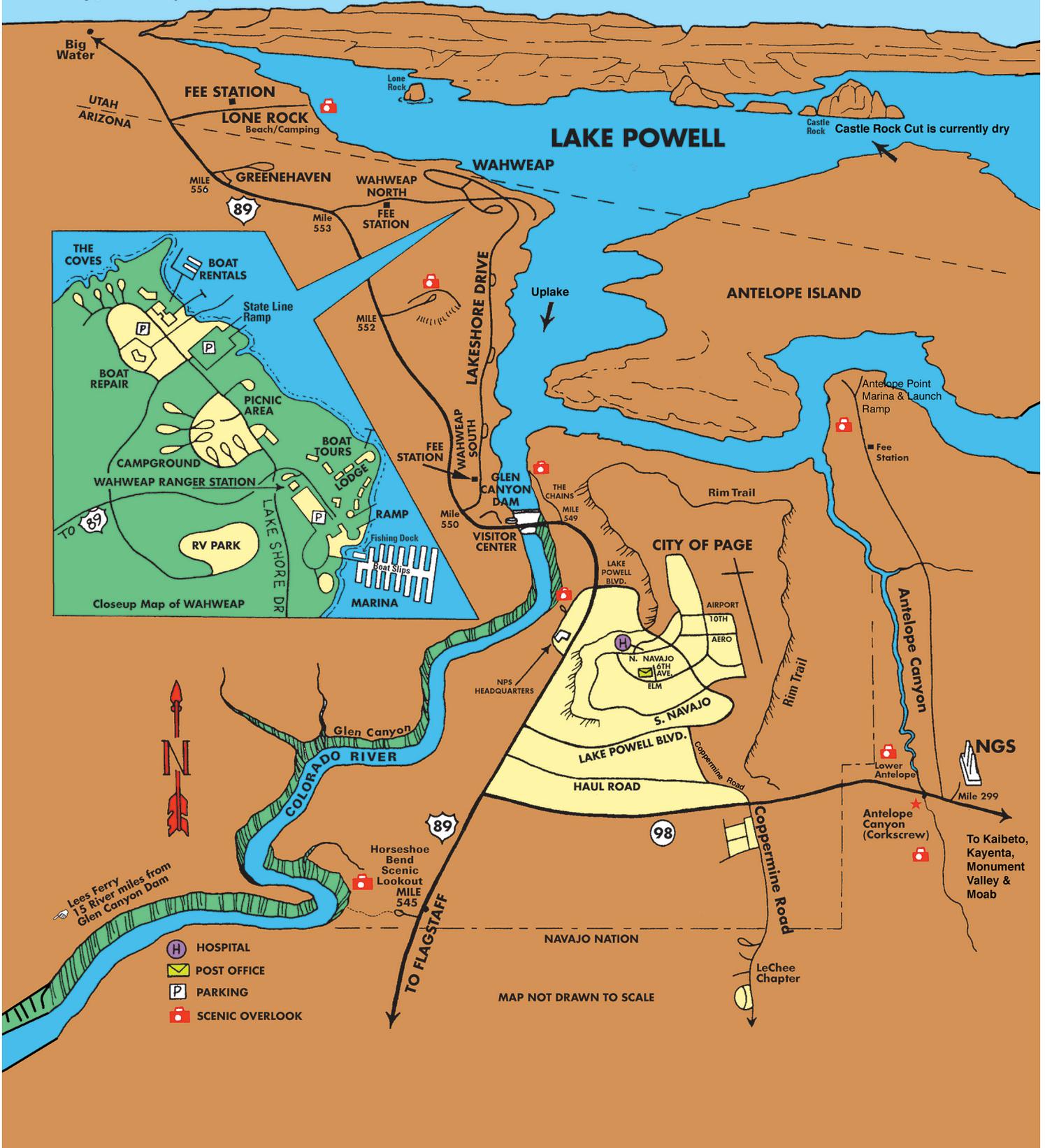
MILEAGE CHART

All mileage is approximate

	ARCHES N.P., MOAB, UT	BRIANHEAD, UT	BRYCE CANYON N.P., UT	CANYON DE CHELLY, NM	CANYONLANDS, UT	CAPITOL REEF, N.P., UT	CEDAR BREAKS N.P., UT	CEDAR CITY, UT	FLAGSTAFF, AZ	GRAND CANYON N. RIM	GRAND CANYON S. RIM	KANAB, UT	LAKE POWELL, HITE MARINA	LAS VEGAS, NV	MESA VERDE, N.P., CO	MESQUITE, NV	MONUMENT VALLEY, UT	NATURAL BRIDGES, NM	NAVAJO, NM	PAGE, AZ	PANGUITCH, UT	PIPE SPRINGS, NM	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	ST. GEORGE, UT	ZION N.P., UT
ARCHES N.P., MOAB, UT		278	270	249	62	145	285	288	419	399	425	321	168	447	149	376	159	129	214	285	291	342	238	341	328
BRIANHEAD, UT	278		56	331	350	179	5	32	292	161	298	68	248	189	431	121	280	301	242	177	35	101	250	85	90
BRYCE CANYON N.P., UT	270	56		294	327	120	56	78	302	155	292	77	223	230	393	162	278	284	230	152	24	107	260	126	84
CANYON DE CHELLY, NM	249	331	294		175	551	351	365	181	347	257	268	210	464	221	388	171	185	133	198	340	299	580	383	298
CANYONLANDS, UT	62	350	327	175		230	352	354	282	409	439	331	116	524	122	450	145	81	192	256	320	352	304	414	372
CAPITOL REEF, N.P., UT	145	179	120	551	230		178	199	277	275	312	197	123	356	285	282	196	147	246	327	144	219	224	246	204
CEDAR BREAKS N.P., UT	285	5	56	351	352	178		21	304	158	295	64	245	186	427	119	277	299	239	174	32	97	253	88	93
CEDAR CITY, UT	288	32	78	365	354	199	21		322	176	313	79	263	168	445	101	295	317	257	192	50	115	250	53	59
FLAGSTAFF, AZ	419	292	302	181	282	277	304	322		208	78	204	252	268	365	307	176	221	140	135	267	205	503	273	241
GRAND CANYON N. RIM	399	161	155	347	409	275	158	176	208		214	78	401	275	434	201	247	365	203	121	145	92	381	161	119
GRAND CANYON S. RIM	425	298	292	257	439	312	295	313	78	214		202	321	357	206	169	287	125	139	301	261	520	303	211	
KANAB, UT	321	68	77	268	331	197	64	79	204	78	202		278	203	380	126	196	318	151	70	67	21	303	88	41
LAKE POWELL, HITE MARINA	168	248	223	210	116	123	245	263	252	401	321	278		559	199	484	111	40	162	278	216	299	408	318	397
LAS VEGAS, NV	447	189	230	404	524	356	186	168	268	275	283	203	559		595	77	407	525	365	281	225	182	413	110	153
MESA VERDE, N.P., CO	149	431	393	221	122	285	427	445	365	434	357	380	199	595		518	89	158	161	232	419	401	380	461	420
MESQUITE, NV	376	121	162	388	450	282	119	101	307	201	206	126	484	77	518		330	447	288	204	148	105	336	36	76
MONUMENT VALLEY, UT	159	280	278	171	145	196	277	295	176	247	169	196	111	407	89	330		118	163	126	269	217	394	284	242
NATURAL BRIDGES, NM	129	301	284	185	81	147	299	317	221	365	287	318	40	525	158	447	118		122	238	256	339	368	410	363
NAVAJO, NM	214	242	230	133	192	246	239	257	140	203	125	151	162	365	161	288	163	122		81	226	172	435	239	200
PAGE, AZ	285	154	152	198	256	327	174	192	135	121	139	70	278	281	232	204	126	238	81		145	91	420	158	119
PANGUITCH, UT	291	35	24	340	320	144	32	50	267	145	301	67	216	225	419	148	269	256	226	145		88	236	115	74
PIPE SPRINGS, NM	342	101	107	299	352	219	97	115	205	92	261	21	299	182	401	105	217	339	172	91	88		324	67	62
SALT LAKE CITY, UT	238	250	260	580	304	224	253	250	503	381	520	303	408	413	380	336	394	368	435	420	236	324		303	309
ST. GEORGE, UT	341	85	126	353	414	246	88	53	273	161	303	88	318	110	461	36	284	410	239	158	115	67	303		43
ZION N.P., UT	328	90	84	298	372	204	93	59	241	119	211	41	397	153	420	76	242	363	200	119	74	62	309	43	

Page Area Map

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To Church Wells, Kanab,
St. George, Zion NP & Bryce NP, Utah



Northern Arizona camping guide

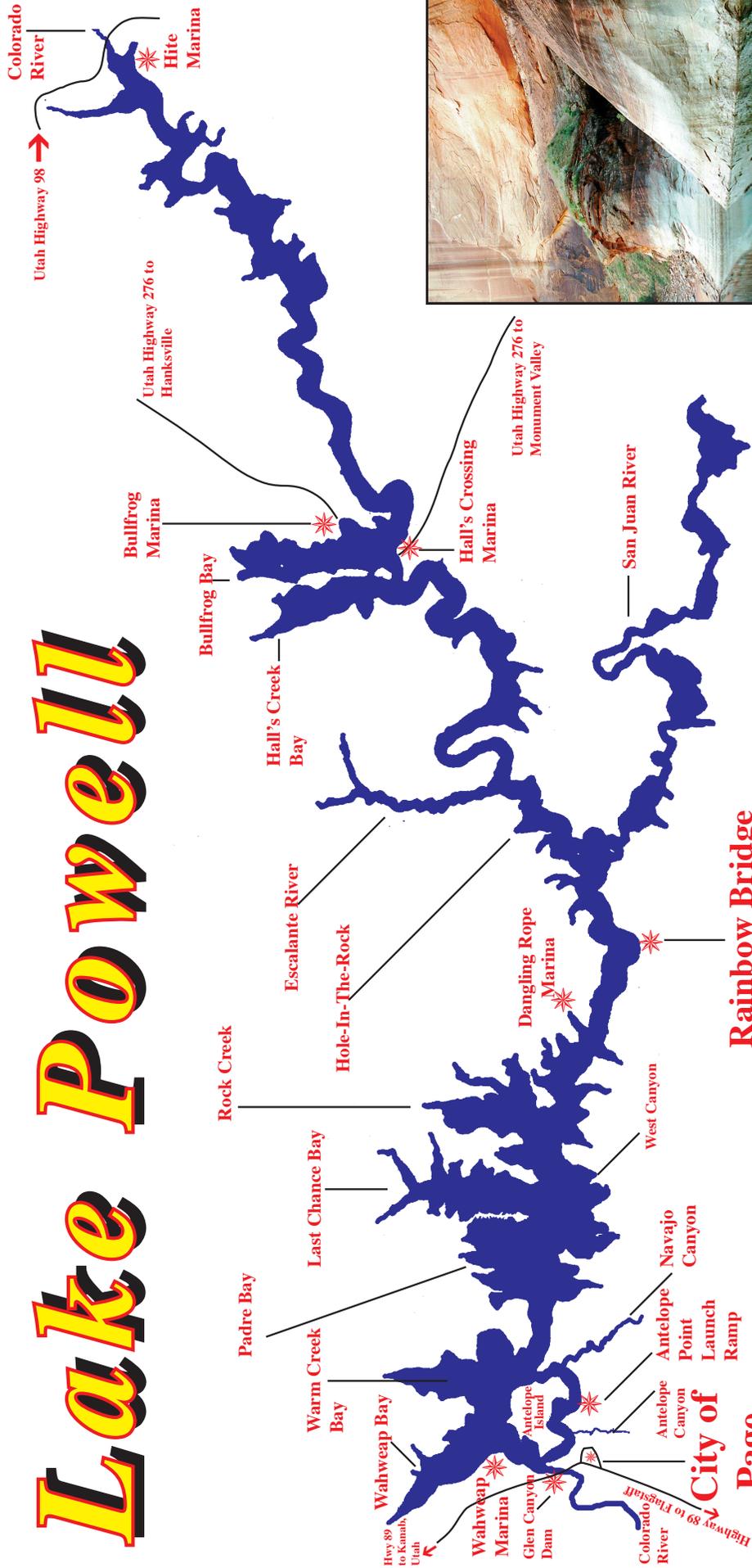
Name of Site	Location	Telephone & Area Code (908)	Jurisdiction	Approximate Elevation	Approximate Season of Use	Days Limit	Day Use Only	Fee (Y=Yes)	No. of Units	Safe Water	Restrooms	RVs or Tents	Waste Disposal	Boat Launching	Boating	Fishing	Other Information
AREA 6																	
1	Wahweap	7 mi. NW of Page in Glen Canyon Nat. Rec. Area.	645-6316	NPS	3800	All Year	14	X	178	X	X	Both	X	X	X	X	
2	Wahweap Trailer Village	7 mi. NW of Page in Glen Canyon Nat. Rec. Area ** Concession operated sanitary disposal.	645-1004	NPS	3800	All Year		X	120	X	X	RV	X*	X	X		*Operated by NPS concessionaire Boat station available
3	Lees Ferry	5 mi. N of Marble Canyon off US 89-A	355-2234	NPS	3100	All Year	14	X	50	X	X	Both		X	X	X	
4	Navajo National Mon.	20 mi. SW of Kayenta on US 160, 10 mi. NW on AZ 564	672-2366	NPS	7300	May 15-Oct	7		30	X	X	Both		X			Two group sites/12 overflow sites
5	Monument Valley Navajo Indian Res.	24 mi. N of Kayenta on US 163, 4 mi. E At Tribal Park Entrance	(435) 727-3287	TR	5020	All Year	14	X	100	X	X	Both	X				Laundromat, Arts & Crafts at Visitor Center
6	Cottonwood	1 mi. E of Chinle in Canyon de Chelly National Monument	674-5436	NPS	5500	All Year	14		95*	X	X	Both	X				* Includes 3 group sites available by reservation
7	Page Lake Powell Campground	849 S. Coppermine Road in Page	645-3374		4300	All Year		X	133	X	X	Both	X				website: campground.page-lakepowell.com
8	Second Mesa-Hopi Indian Res.	E of Cultural Center at Indian Hwy 4 & AZ 264	724-2401	TR	5390	All Year		X	6			Both					Facilities at Cultural Center
9	Keams Canyon Hopi Indian Res.	Across AZ 264 from Trading Post Keams Canyon	738-2296	TR	6215	May-Dec	7	X	6	X	X	Both					Trading Post, laundry service Station, Restaurant
10	Summit-Navajo Indian Res.	8 mi. W of Window Rock on AZ 264	871-6647	TR	7000	May-Nov	14		13		X	Both					Primitive campground and picnicking
AREA 7																	
1	Virgin River Gorge	I-15 At Cedar Pocket Interchange	(435) 673-3545	BLM	1900	All Year		X	115	X	X	Both	X				Wilderness Trailhead
2	Mad Rabbit-Kaibab-Paiute Indian Res.	1/4 mi. N of AZ 389 on road to Kaibab	643-5545	TR	4920	May-Nov		X	45	X	X	Both					Hiking Trail & Petroglyphs; Conv. market & laundry
3	Jacob Lake	Jct US 89-A & AZ 67	643-7395	NFS	7921	May-Nov	14	X	53	X	X	Both	*X				*Waste disposal located adjacent to Jacob Lake Inn. 2 handicap units
4	Indian Hollow	35 mi SW of Jacob Lake off FH 232	643-7395	NFS	7200	Apr-Dec	14		3		X	Tent					Trailhead for Thunder River Tr. into G.C. primitive campground
5	Toroweap	72 mi SW of Fredonia (unpaved road) access by 4 wheel drive depending on road & weather conditions	638-7888	NPS	5600	All Year	14		5		X	Tent					Primitive; Pack-in/Pack-out
6	Havasas Canyon Havasu Indian Res.	70 mi N of US 66, turning approx. 7 mi E of Peach Springs. 8 mi hike to Supai Village	448-2121	TR	3205	All Year		X	250*	X	X	Tent					Pack-in/Pack-out; reservation required *people, not sites. Pack horses avail.
7	DeMotte	25 mi S of Jacob Lake on SR 67	643-7395	NFS	8760	Jun-Nov	14	X	22	X	X	Both					In N. Kaibab Ranger District
8	North Rim	North Rim in Grand Canyon NP	(800) 365-2267	NPS	8200	May-Oct	7	X	82	X	X	Both					
9	Cottonwood	Inner Canyon of Grand Canyon NP on North Kaibab Trail	638-7888	NPS	4200	All Year	2		40*	X	X	Tent					Hike in only by reservation; *Capacity in people, not sites
10	Bright Angel Phantom Ranch	Inner Canyon of Grand Canyon NP	638-7888	NPS	2450	All Year	2		75*	X	X	Tent					Hike in only by reservation; *Capacity in people, not sites
11	Indian Garden	Inner G.C.N.P. on Bright Angel Trail	638-7888	NPS	3800	All Year	2		50*	X	X	Tent					Hike in only by reservation; *Capacity in people, not sites.
12	Mather	At G.C.Village, S.Rim of G.C.N.P.	(800) 365-2267	NPS	6900	All Year	7	X	319	X	X	RV	X				Reservation 3/1-11/30. All other times- "1st come, 1st served."
13	Trailer Village at Grand Canyon Nat. Park	At G.C.Village, S. rim of G.C.N.P.	638-2401	NPS*	6900	All Year	15	X	192	X	X	RV	X				Reservations available* Operated by NPS concessionaire
14	Desert View	On S. Rim of G.C.N.P. Entrance on AZ 64	638-2872	NPS	6700	May-Oct	7	X	50	X	X	Both					No reservations taken, 1st come, 1st serve only!
15	Ten-X	10 mi S. of G.C.N.P. on US 180, Tusayan	638-2443	NFS	6600	May-Sept	14	X	70	X	X	Both					Full by 4 pm daily during summer
16	Charley Tank Group Camp	Adjacent to Ten-X	638-2443	NFS	6600	May-Sept	14	X	2		X	Both					Primitive campground, water available in Ten-X. Groups only.
17	Pack Saddle	From Kingman, 18 mi N of US 93 to Chloride/Big Wash Rd for 9 mi to site	757-3161	BLM	6000	All Year			7			Tent					Travel trailers not recommended on steep winding road.
18	Temple Bar	74 mi N of Kingman on US 93 in Lake Mead N. Rec. Area	(702) 293-8906	NPS	1300	All Year	90	X	153	X	X	Both	X				
19	Temple Bar Resort	74 mi N of Kingman on US 93 in Lake Mead N. Rec. Area	(702) 767-3211	NPS*	1300	All Year		X	13	X	X	RV	X				*Operated by NPS concessionaire
22	Windy Point	From Kingman, go 18 mi N on US 93 to Chloride/Big Wash Rd. for 11 mi to site	(702) 757-3161	BLM	6200	May-Oct	21		7		X	Both					Disposal at nearby rest area
23	Willow Beach Resort	60 mi NW of Kingman off US 93 in Lake Mead National Rec. Area	(702) 767-3211	NPS*	660	All Year		X	15	X	X	RV	X	X	X	X	*Operated by NPS concessionaire

Information about permits and/or fees for some National Forest recreation areas is available at Ranger Stations. • US-US Highway • AZ/St-State Highway • FH-Forest Highway • FR-Fire Road
Jurisdictions • BLM - Bureau of Land Management • NPS - National Park Service • ST - Arizona State Parks • CC - County Parks • NFS - National Forest Service • TR -- Indian Tribal Reservations

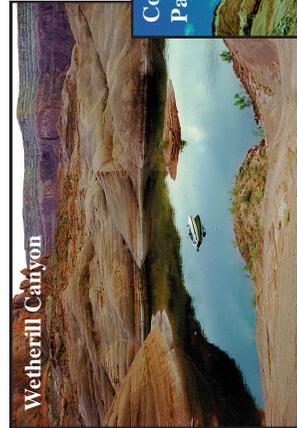
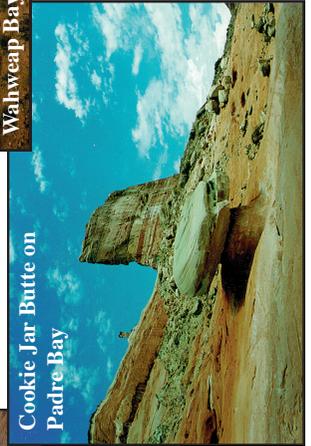
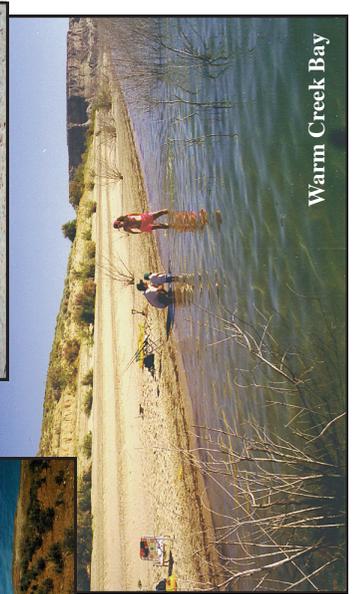
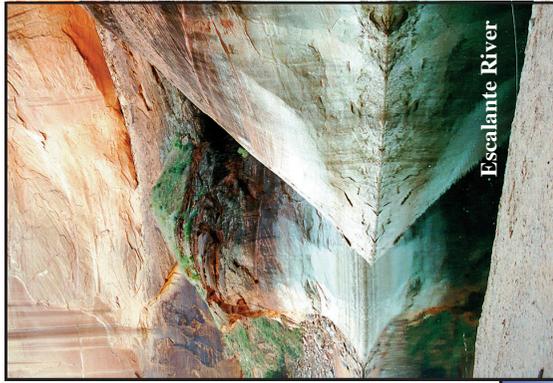
For additional information, the following agencies may be reached at:

- U.S. National Park Service, Southern Arizona Group, 3115 N. Third Ave., Suite 101, Phoenix, AZ 85013; (602) 640-5250
- Bureau of Land Management, 2015 W. Deer Valley Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85027; (602) 580-5500
 - Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007; (602) 542-4174
- Department of Fish & Game, 2222 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85023; (602) 942-3000
- Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs, 1645 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007; (602) 542-3123
- Arizona Office of Tourism, 2702 N. Third St., Suite 4015, Phoenix, AZ 85004-4608; (602) 230-7733

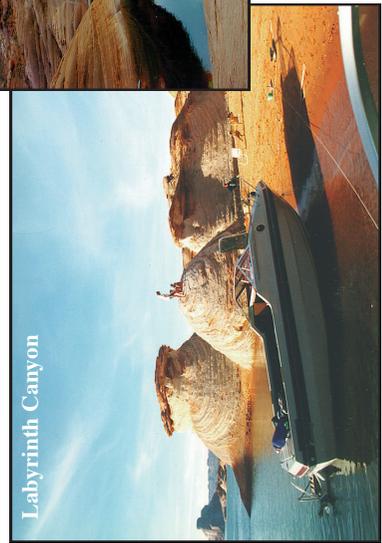
Lake Powell



Rainbow Bridge National Monument



Photos by Marty Sisk





Tribal valley is monument to nature, movies

The splendor of Monument Valley, just across the Utah border on the Navajo reservation, lies in its towering red limestone spires and buttes, which are the stubborn remnants of ancient plateaus that have bowed to the persistence of 250 million years of wind and rain.

Visitors to the 91,696-acre Navajo Tribal Park may be overwhelmed with a sense of déjà vu — and for a good reason. A multitude of movies, television shows and commercials have been filmed at the park, including *Back to the Future 3*, *Mission Impossible 2*, as well as several westerns like *How the West Was Won* (1942), *My Darling Clementine* (1946), and *The Searchers* (1956). Visitors may recall commercials featuring sport-utility vehicles perched high atop the red rock formations, a marine scaling a foreboding crag, or a woman typing on a computer at the crown of a jagged spire, all of which were filmed in Monument Valley.

The history of the valley and the screen reaches back to 1938, when legendary silver-screen cowboy John Wayne and western director John Ford used the scenic backdrops to film the classic *Stagecoach*. In fact, all of the formations in Monument Valley were given English names by the Duke and Ford.

There are four ways to see the valley: A self-guided driving tour, Navajo guided driving tours, hiking, and horseback riding.

There is a 17-mile loop that visitors to Monument Valley may drive on unescorted. The loop enables visitors to see most of the valley's landmarks, such as the East

and West Mittens, the Three Sisters, and Elephant Butte. The self-guided loop also provides visitors' access to Artists' Point, a viewpoint that yields a stunning panoramic view of the valley. A must see for western movie buffs is Ford's Point, the ledge where John Ford filmed portions of "Stagecoach," the film that introduced the valley to the screen. The unpaved loop road is rugged, almost charmingly so, but visitors should be prepared to travel the loop in a vehicle capable of handling rough terrain. Four-wheel drive is not necessary, but a vehicle with sturdy suspension and a liberal ground-clearance will make the drive agreeable.

Those who choose to drive the loop should also be prepared to encounter a number of "Do not enter" and "No climbing" signs. Rock climbing is strictly forbidden in Monument Valley and many roads are closed to the public because they lead to homes and property of Navajo people living in the valley. There are approximately eight families currently living in the tribal park, many of whom dwell in hogans, traditional Navajo homes. Navajos living in the valley are forbidden to use running water or electricity in order to maintain the naturalness of the tribal park.

Other roads are only accessible by visitors who are in the company of a Navajo guide. Visitors may embark on three-and-a-half hour and full-day guided tours in the tribal park, both of which provide access to the splendors of Monument Valley that lie "off the beaten path," and come with the added insight and commentary of a Navajo

guide. The three-and-a-half hour tour covers the same ground as the self-guided tour, and takes visitors into the "backcountry" of the valley. Among the sights is the Sun's Eye arch, a stunning hollowed ring that sits atop a cliff whose base is etched in petroglyphs, age-old markings of the Anasazi, or "the ancient ones." The Wind's Ear, an arch nestled in a red-rock cul-de-sac, also lies in the backcountry, as well as The Hub, a stout mesa protruding from the desert ground, set as a backdrop to a pair of seemingly minute hogans.

The backcountry is the last stop on the three-and-a-half hour tour. The full-day tour, however, carries on into Mystery Valley, which lies south of the main Monument Valley area. While the main area of Monument Valley's draw is buttes, spires and mesas, Mystery Valley boasts an array of petroglyphs, ruins and most notably, stunning arches. Visitors to the tribal park should, while it may be difficult, reserve a substantial portion of film to photograph Mystery Valley's Stout, Full Moon, Four Level, Honeymoon, Cly, and Parrish Arches, among others.

Visitors who wish to see Monument Valley through a more personal means than a driving tour, guided or otherwise, have the option of seeing the valley by way of a scenic hiking loop, or by horseback. Hiking enthusiasts may be disappointed to find that the Wildcat Nature Trail, a 3.2-mile loop, is the only path available to hikers in the area. The trail however, which circles the valley's West Mitten spire, provides

breathtaking views without a daylong commitment.

Equine enthusiasts may enjoy guided horseback tours available in the half-day, full-day, overnight, and multi-day varieties. These tours provide access to many areas of Monument Valley that can only be accessed by guided tours.

Regardless of the method chosen by visitors to see Monument Valley, it is important to take into account the unique climate of the area. Located at 5,564 feet above sea level, and as part of the Mojave Desert, Monument Valley is subject to extreme temperatures. During the summer months, it is not uncommon for temperatures to exceed 105 degrees. In the winter months, temperatures range from 24-50 degrees. The valley receives minimal amounts of precipitation year-round, and it is important to carry and consume ample quantities of water whenever in a desert.

Monument Valley is a photographer's dream, and those who intend to make photography a priority on their visit to the tribal park, as many do, should keep in mind that during the mid-day hours, the lighting in the valley is rather harsh. Dusk and dawn are the prime hours for photography, and Artists Point, Ford's Point, and the Monument Valley Visitors Center serve as outstanding viewpoints for both times of day.

To get to Monument Valley from Page, take Rt. 98 for 64 miles and turn left at U.S. 160. Follow U.S. 160 for 31 miles, and turn left at U.S. 163 in Kayenta, Ariz. Follow U.S. 163 for 23 miles.

Giant toadstools quite a sight in Utah valley

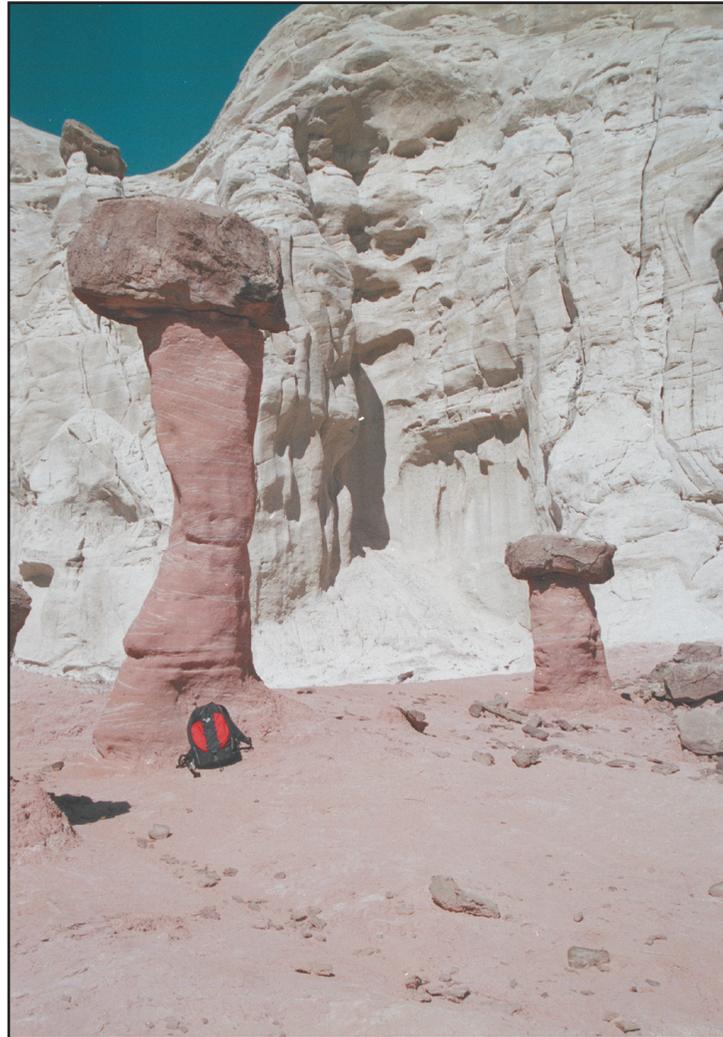
When it comes to geological formations and shapes, no place in the world compares to the Southwest.

Here, geology shows a creative and spectacular side of nature. Many parks and national monuments pay homage to the varied forms of the rocks by name — with places like Arches, Natural Bridges and Rainbow Bridge.

But one of the more peculiar geological formations — the balanced, or pedestal, rocks — does not have its own special park. There is no Balanced Rocks National Park or Pedestal Rocks National Monument. But one slightly out-of-the-way spot in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument could serve as a prime candidate for such a park.

Known locally as “Toadstool Valley” and the “Paria Rimrocks,” the area is located on the north side of U.S. 89, 25 miles west of Page between the 19- and 20-mile markers in Utah. Many visitors who drive past this section revel in the visual delight of tightly banded, red-and-white striped rocks, some with peaks that look like they’re made of dry frosting. Behind these unusual rock formations, at the end of an unmarked trail less than a mile long, stands a bevy of multi-hued pedestal rocks awaiting examination.

With no signs or markers, the pull-off can be hard to find. Traveling from Page, look for an open area just past the 19-mile marker. About 75 yards from the road is a fence with a V-shaped wooden entrance for hikers. Park and walk through the opening in the fence. Follow the wash or walk just to the right of it. For the first half of the hike, power lines are



These pedestal rocks are located in a valley in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Pedestal rocks form when large, dense rocks come to rest atop softer rock. Erosion wears away the soft stone underneath and creates the pedestal shape. (File photo/Gateway to Canyon Country)

visible overhead.

The beaten path — sometimes in the wash or alongside it — winds through the oddly banded rock forms, and some of the bands change color further into the hike. As the trail makes its way past these formations, it becomes a little hard to find in spots, since those who walk it sometimes try to make new paths, and heavy storms can blur the path into obscurity.

After about 15 to 20 minutes of hiking, the first of the pedestal rocks emerges from the landscape in front of a white cliff. The balanced

rock sits between 15 and 20 feet high — depending on which side is measured — and consists of a darker-colored, grayish rock atop a skinny column of red rock with small, white bands.

Between that pedestal rock and the white cliff are eight other pedestals supporting rocks of various sizes and distinctions. Some are only three feet tall and others are as tall as 15 feet. The wonder created by the formations is not in their size but in their contrasts. One balanced rock will have a white-rock pedestal and another, less

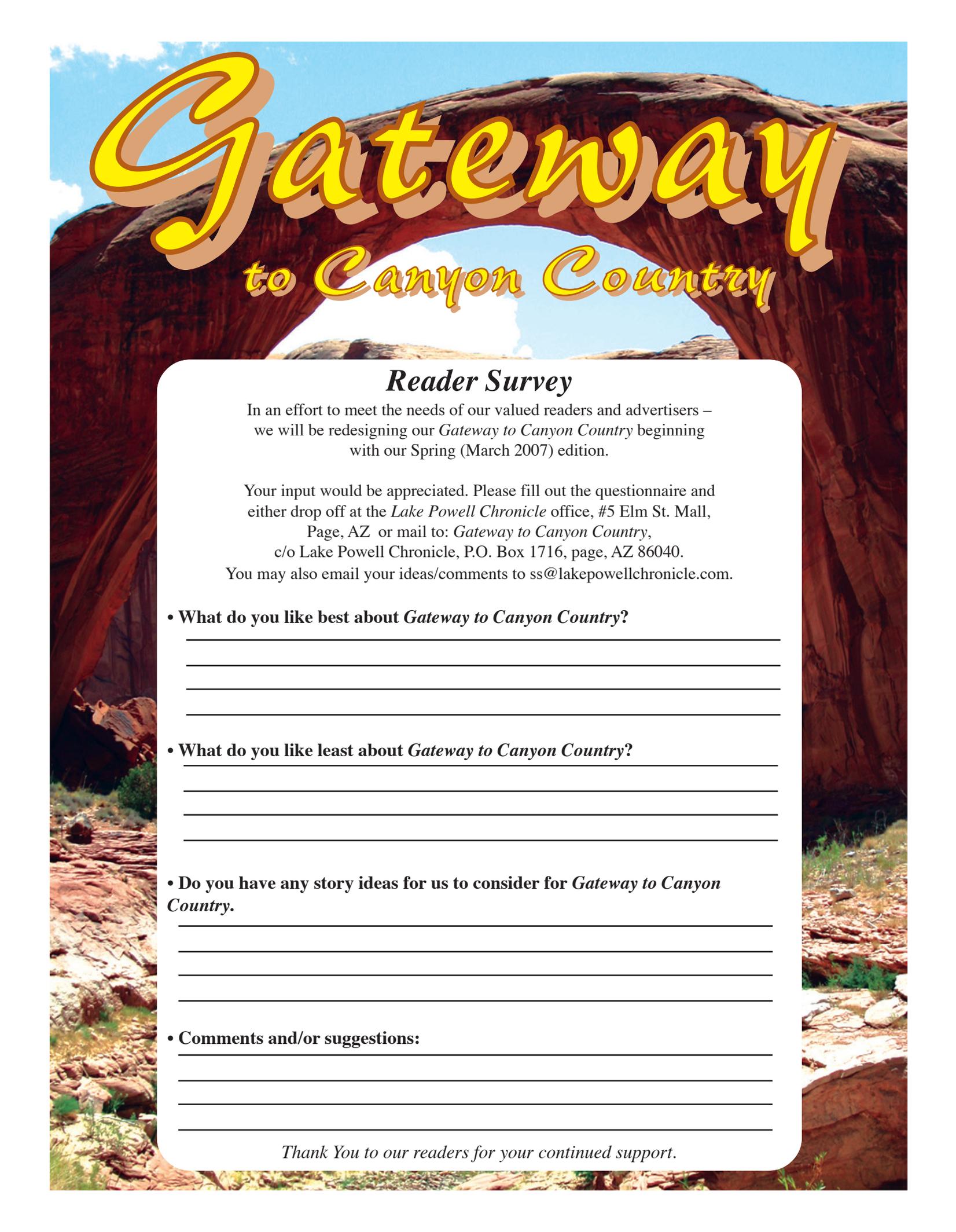
than 25 feet away will have a red-rock pedestal.

After checking out these rocks, about eight more in a small box canyon area can be seen by walking to the left and going around the base of the white cliff, keeping the cliff to the right. These balanced rocks are not much taller or wider than a human, giving them a unique and curious character. A climb up the white rock and encrusted sand on the left will allow for a view of the largest pedestal rock in the immediate area. It stands at the edge of a drop-off and the pedestal itself is about 15 feet high and three feet in diameter, with a sizable chunk of rock sitting on top. It is not recommended to attempt a trek to the base of this one due to loose rock.

The pedestal rocks form when large, dense rocks, usually rolling off a cliff face, come to rest on top of softer rock. The softer rock erodes away while the hard-rock cap packs and condenses the soft rock area directly under it — forming the pedestal. The top rock also shields the pedestal from direct rain and snow.

Toadstool Valley is located in one of three regions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The region, referred to as the Grand Staircase, features white, gray, chocolate, pink and vermilion rock formations, and is home to five distinct ecosystems, from desert to coniferous forest.

While the Toadstool area of the massive Grand Staircase monument does not get its own special park, the lack of signs and secluded path means few visitors. In the winter months, a half-day hike to examine the unusual rock forms could bring one to a place worthy of park status, without the park crowds.



Gateway to Canyon Country

Reader Survey

In an effort to meet the needs of our valued readers and advertisers – we will be redesigning our *Gateway to Canyon Country* beginning with our Spring (March 2007) edition.

Your input would be appreciated. Please fill out the questionnaire and either drop off at the *Lake Powell Chronicle* office, #5 Elm St. Mall, Page, AZ or mail to: *Gateway to Canyon Country*, c/o Lake Powell Chronicle, P.O. Box 1716, page, AZ 86040.

You may also email your ideas/comments to ss@lakepowellchronicle.com.

- **What do you like best about *Gateway to Canyon Country*?**

- **What do you like least about *Gateway to Canyon Country*?**

- **Do you have any story ideas for us to consider for *Gateway to Canyon Country*.**

- **Comments and/or suggestions:**

Thank You to our readers for your continued support.

Spencer Trail challenging, but payoff worth exhaustion

In 1910, mine owner and eccentric businessman Charles Spencer stood at the base of the vermilion cliffs that flank Lees Ferry and scanned rock faces in search of a path to the top. Spencer needed a route to his coal mines north of Lees Ferry, near Warm Creek.

As the story goes, Spencer turned to his trusty mule, Pete, slapped the beast on the rump, and followed the route his mule picked out to the top. Spencer staked the trail along the way and returned to order some of his workers to build the trail.

Nearly 100 years later, the trail remains. Today, the mother lode its travelers seek is not coal, but rather the spectacular views and solitude.

The trailhead for the Spencer Trail is located near the launch ramp for the Colorado River at Lees Ferry. Emerging as a Mormon settlement in 1871, Lees Ferry was one of the few spots where one could cross the river. This distinction has given Lees Ferry much geographical and historical significance.

Spencer Trail provides one of the best day hikes in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, of which Lees Ferry is a part.

To find the trailhead, walk north from the launch ramp parking lot and pass four historic buildings — Lees Ferry Fort and the U.S. Post Office on the left, and Spencer Bunkhouse and a U.S. Geological Survey building on the right. Follow the signs pointing to Spencer Trail, which breaks to the left after passing the last two buildings.

As one begins the hike, it's natural to glance upward to size up the cliff face. A route to the top almost seems impossible when looking up from the bottom. While ascending the trail it feels impossible. In many cases, the hike — two miles to the top, with a 1,240-foot change in elevation — feels more like rock-climbing.

Like most ascending hikes, Spencer Trail becomes a series of switchbacks. The first third of the hike is the easiest and most level. Also, work by a trail crew in the fall of 2001 helped make the trail a little easier to negotiate in spots that once required scrambling. But the bulk of the trail work took



The view of Lees Ferry from the top of Spencer Trail makes the rigorous ascent up the steep cliff worth every step. (Gateway to Canyon Country file photo)

place on the trail's lower half.

As the hike continues, the path is easily lost in some areas and may require a bit of intuition, or even help from previous hikers' footprints. Some sections on the trail's upper half are daunting, so caution is suggested.

It's the Spencer Trail's last half-mile that may have hikers cursing Pete the mule and his sure-footed ways. The trail makes a series of tight switchbacks and steep ascents. It does level out for a good 250 yards as the trail heads northward. But there is one final steep ascent to conquer.

When the trail crests the top, it feels as if the entire Colorado Plateau has come into view. Turning around, the hiker can take in views of Lees Ferry, the Colorado River, Marble Canyon, the Vermilion Cliffs, and a portion of the Paria Canyon. Looking forward, Lake Powell, Gunsight Butte, Boundary Butte, Tower Butte, and Page are all visible on a clear day.

Hikers can walk about 200 yards straight ahead to another cliff edge and take in a view of Glen Canyon that's a close second to Horseshoe Bend. The ambitious explorer can spend the day wandering along the edge of the plateau, with little chance of running into another person. Here, it seems the ravens outnumber people a million to one.

Those who hike Spencer Trail should bring a walking stick or hiking poles, plenty of food and water, and a camera. The hike is not recommended for those with health problems or a fear of heights. The Spencer Trail hike is perfect in the winter, and morning is the best time to start. On colder days, an afternoon hike is acceptable, but lighting for pictures is best in the morning.

On the return descent, visitors should remember that people aren't as sure-footed as mules. Slow, cautious steps are recommended.



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